



FACT SHEET

CHILD ABDUCTION RESPONSE TEAMS (CART)

- Child Abduction Response Teams (CART) will respond quickly to incidents of missing and abducted children. The teams include regional law enforcement investigators, forensic experts, AMBER Alert coordinators, search and rescue professionals, policy makers, crime intelligence analysts, victim service providers and other interagency resources.
- The CART program began in early 2005 as a result of the tragic abduction of 11-year-old Carlie Brucia in Sarasota, Fla. in February 2004. Members of Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Orlando Regional Operations Center saw a need for their region to have trained experts in the field of child abduction investigation and response who could respond to an abduction immediately, assist the lead local law enforcement agency, and bring additional regional resources to the recovery effort.
- CART can be used for all missing children's cases, can be deployed as part of an AMBER Alert, or when a child is abducted or missing, but the abduction/disappearance does not meet the AMBER Alert criteria. AMBER Alerts are issued only when a child abduction meets the specific AMBER Alert criteria, when law enforcement has enough descriptive information about the abductor or the abductor's vehicle to alert the public. CART can also be used to recover runaway children if they are under 18 and are in danger.
- The Department of Justice recognized that the CART program was an effective way to recover children and acknowledged a need for law enforcement agencies to have enhanced response capacity to recover missing and abducted children.
- Each region will develop their CART program to best suit their demographic and geographic needs. The regional CART training calls for a review of existing policies and practices of agencies and how interagency and regional cooperation on missing and abducted children's cases can be improved. Participating agencies will be encouraged to work together and develop an outline for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to execute an effective plan. Once MOUs are in place, team members will have knowledge of the numerous regional resources that may be required during an investigation.